GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:215
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Tea Production in Assam
Ajmal Maulana Badruddin

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tea production in Assam is becoming challenging due to climate change and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether longer dry periods and change in rainfall pattern in the North East have increased tea production cost;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken any initiative to help tea garden workers/farmers and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to take any initiative to balance the international market price with Indian Tea Traders and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): The tea industry is facing problems due to climate change resulting in erratic distribution of rainfall with extended periods of droughts followed by heavy rainfall. Irrigation has become imperative and pest and disease incidence is on the rise. This has become a challenge in tea production in Assam. Accordingly, the tea garden owners have to incur higher costs for irrigation and pest/disease control.

(c): In order to help the growers to mitigate the increased cost, Tea Board under the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme for the XII Plan Period, is providing financial assistance for creation of Irrigation facilities. During the year 2015-16 Rs. 6.23 crores has been extended towards financial assistance for an area of 10,924.15 ha in Assam for creation of Irrigation facilities. During the year 2016-17, till June 2016, a sum of Rs.1.21 crores has been extended towards financial assistance for Irrigation for an area of 1,534.31 ha in Assam.

(d): In order to help the Indian Tea Traders maintain the supply-demand equilibrium and earn remunerative price for the stakeholders of the Tea Industry, the government has added thrust for increasing exports volume, doubling unit price realization, augmenting export of value-added teas and reinforcing "Brand India" Image in the overseas markets.
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